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DROYLSDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A.W. Laing, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.,Dp.Bact.,

Sanitary Inspector & Meat and Food Inspector. - John E. Hart, C.R.S.I., M.I.

Area	1,010 acres.
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1939.....	7,910
Rateable Value	£103,736.
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£400.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following Pathological Specimens were submitted to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for examination:-

Sputum, 10; Throat and Nose Swabs for Diphtheria, 169 and Naso-Pharyngeal Swab for Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 1

In addition the following specimens were examined at the Ashton Laboratory during the year:-

Throat and Nose Swabs for Diphtheria 34; Sputum for Tuberculosis, 24.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Non-Infectious Cases.

Agreements exist between the Manchester City Council and the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation for the use by Droylsden residents of the Motor Ambulances belonging to these two Authorities.

During the past year the ambulances were used on 363 occasions, i.e. Manchester ambulances 143 cases, and Ashton-under-Lyne ambulances 220 cases.

Infectious Cases.

In cases of Infectious Disease, other than Smallpox, the motor ambulances of the Manchester Corporation are requisitioned for the conveyance of patients to (and from if required) the Monsall Infectious Diseases Hospital.

The ambulance service is excellent.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Droylsden Sick Nursing Association employs one whole-time Nurse for the visitation of the sick, but there are no arrangements in existence for the nursing of infectious diseases, e.g. measles, in the home.

HOSPITALS.

There are no Public or Voluntary Hospitals in the District.

CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Child Welfare Centre is the only Clinic in the area and is under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis is arranged for and provided by the Tuberculosis Department of the Lancashire County Council, whose Dispensary for this district is situated at Ashton-under-Lyne.

MATERNITY.

Complicated maternity cases are sent to St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and the District Infirmary and the Lake Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Residents of Droylsden are able to make use of St. Mary's Hospital Maternity Unit. The Maternity Unit consists of a member of the visiting Obstetric Staff together with a Nurse and the necessary equipment for dealing with emergencies. The services of the Unit are available when summoned by the doctor in charge of the case.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the terms of an agreement with the Manchester Corporation, cases which cannot be isolated satisfactorily at home, or where nursing is inadequate, with the exception of smallpox cases, are sent for isolation and treatment at the Monsall Hospital Manchester. Payment is made by the Council at the rate of actual cost.

Smallpox.

Arrangements have been made whereby cases of smallpox are treated at the Ashton-under-Lyne & District Joint Smallpox Hospital at Hartshead. Formerly beds were available at the Hyde Smallpox Hospital, Cheshire.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

There are no changes from last year in the sanitary circumstances of the area, with the exception that the Manchester Corporation has taken over the disposal of the Droylsden Sewage. All Droylsden's sewage is now treated at Davyhulme.

HOUSING.

There are no changes in the housing conditions.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 80 registered retail purveyors of milk, other than cowkeepers, and 5 dairies.

Frequent inspections are made to ensure that a proper standard of cleanliness is maintained. The danger of milk contamination is present at most cowsheds and milkshops, and steps are taken to guard against this as far as possible.

There is one firm licensed to produce pasteurised milk.

There are eight milk distributors in Droylsden who hold special licences for the sale of milk bearing the following designation:- "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)."

Twenty-seven samples of milk were taken by the Police Authorities under the Food & Drugs Act, for the purpose of analysis; Two of these were deficient of 6% fat and 4% solids not fat, respectively.

Tuberculosis in Milk.

During the year 53 samples of milk were submitted by the Droylsden Urban District Council for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. The results were as follows:-

	No. of samples.	Positive.	Negative.
Pasteurised Milk ...	12	Nil.	12
Untreated Milk ...	41	8	33

The percentage of positive untreated milk is 19.5 or approximately one in every five. No "Grade A (Tuberculin Tested)" milk was tested.

Eight specimens of milk were taken by the County Council - 4 Pasteuries and 4 Non-Pasteurised. One Non-Pasteurised sample was found to be infected with Tubercle Bacilli.

Meat Shops & Slaughterhouses.

There are 27 retail meat shops and two slaughter-houses in Droylsden. With the exception of the local Co-operative Society's premises there is no extensive slaughteringtaking place in the district.

During the year 10 Beasts' Heads, 24 Beasts' Livers, 60 Pigs' Heads and 15 Pigs' Plucks were destroyed on account of Tuberculosis.

One Pig's Carcase, 2 Beasts' Heads, 6 Beasts' Livers, 4 Pigs' Heads, 3 Pigs' Plucks, 4 Sheeps' Plucks, 110 lbs. Chilled Beef and One Bullock's Carcase weight 418 lbs. were destroyed as unwholesome meat.

Bakehouses.

At the end of 1939 there were 38 bakehouses on the register, and these have been found to be well kept, cleanly and in good structural condition.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever showed a decrease, the number of cases notified was 34 against 78 in 1938.

Seventy cases of Diphtheria were notified. This is an increase of 24 cases compared with 1938.

There was an outbreak of Diphtheria during the months of September and October with a total of 38 cases. The outbreak was unusual inasmuch as the age incidence was high, adults being infected rather than children. Most of the cases were of the gravis type. One or two carriers were found. There were no deaths during the short outbreak.

1,432,000 units of Diphtheria Anti-toxin were supplied to doctors for administration to patients residing in the district.

Whooping Cough and Measles were not prevalent during the year.

A Scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria started on the 13th October, 1939. The County Council provides the Nurses and the use of the Clinic, and contributes 50% of the cost.

The immunisation is carried out by three of the Medical Practitioners residing in the area. The average attendance at each session was 67.

Children from one year to 14 years are immunised free of cost.

The prophylactic used for children up to 7 years of age is A.P.T. Burroughs & Wellcome Brand (3 doses) and from 7 years onwards, 3 doses of T.A.F (Burroughs & Wellcome Brand).

During the three months, 11 pre-school children and 193 school children were completely immunised.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	34	12	-
Diphtheria.	70	45	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5	4	-
Pneumonia.	11	-	5
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Meningitis	3	2	1
Measles	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
TOTALS	135	64	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

During the year there was one death from tuberculosis which had not been notified previously.

New Cases of Tuberculosis and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years.								
0- 1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1- 5	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
5-10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
10-15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
15-20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
25-35	3	4	-	2	3	2	-	-
35-45	1	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
45-55	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55-65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	7	2	6	9	5	2	1
	15		8		14		3	

A. W. LAING.

Medical Officer of Health.

25th July, 1940.